(c) if so, the specific plan formulated thereon for Ninth Plan and the steps taken to implement the measures proposed to be adopted in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Development of science and technology is encouraged to gain knowledge of the natural processes and their governing laws. A part of the knowledge so gained results in techology to benefit the society. The cause of scientisis is served when scientific establishments are developed to create congenial conditions to enable them to pursue their ideas.

(b) and (c) Government has been encouraging the development of science and technology in the country. Since independence, there has been a gradual and significant increase in Government support for science and technology. A number of S & T agencies and establishments have been created to promote S&T efforts in the respective areas.

The approach to science and technology development during the 9th Plan has been drafted to include the nurturing of scientific and technological research and manpower, creating centres of excellence, providing more autonomy to scientific insitututions and laboratories including their modernization and networking, developing core technological strengths in key sectors, involvement of socio-economic Ministries for S&T inputs and involvement of Voluntary agencies in science and society related programmes, emphasis on technology management and marketing and issues related to Intellectual Property Rights and patenting, etc. Some initiatives already undertaken are the matching rupee-to rupee scheme and funding for technology through the Technology Development Board. The recent new initiative is the announcement of Swarna Jayanti fellowships for basic research to support outstanding scientists to enable them to do world class level science.

[Translation]

Renewable Energy Institute

2461. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Renewable Energy Institute; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scientific Devices for Rural Areas

2462. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether various low cost devices, capable of being used in rural areas/homes, were recently demostrated by Department of Science & Technology;

(b) if so, the details of these devices, their cost and the places where they are available; and

(c) the steps being taken to popularise these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the devices recently demonstrated are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of the Device	Place/Instt. where Demonstrated	Cost as per final technical Report of the Institute
1.	Clay Emitter	Centre of Science for villages, Magansangrahalaya, Wardha	Rs. 0.25 per piece
2.	Water Mills	Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organ. Gwar Choki, Chamoli	Rs. 25,000/- per kilo Watt
3.	Carcass Cooker	Society for Economic and Social Studies Saket, New Delhi	(a) 150 Kg (SS) Rs. 45,000/- (b)150 Kg (MS) Rs. 35,000/- (c)250 Kg (SS) Rs. 75,000/-
4.	Plata Type Water Lifting Pump	Nb Institute of Rural Technology, 52, Shakuntala Road, Agartala	Rs. 28,000/-

(c) The information of these devices are being disseminated to development departments/agencies of the Government S&T field groups and other voluntary organisations for popularisation.

[English]

Guidelines for Briefing Media

2463. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines relating to levels of officials who are allowed to brief the media on matters of policy;